

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRASIL 02040 091359Z

54

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 /044 W

----- 056384

R 091150Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WAHSDC 4396

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

UNCLAS BRASILIA 2040

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BR GY

SUBJECT: THE BRAZILIAN PRESS AND THE GUYANA RUMORS

REF: BRASILIA 1797

SUMMARY: THE BRAZILIAN PRESS HAS INCREASED ITS COVERAGE OF THE ALLEGED PRESENCE OF FOREIGN MILITARY INSTRUCTORS IN GUYANA, HIGHLIGHTING REPORTS OF OBSERVATIONS OF WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE EXTRAORDINARY ACTIVITIES ALONG THE FRONTIER AREA. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN MILD AND GENERALLY ATTRIBUTES THE ETHNIC-POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN GUYANA AND THE UNRESOLVED TERRITORIAL QUESTION WITH VENEZUELA AS POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUTURE DIFFICULTY. END SUMMARY.

1. STRAIGHT PRESS REPORTS, INTERPRETATIONS, AND EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE SITUATION IN GUYANA, HAVE PICKED UP STEAM DURING THE LAST WEEK. FOLLOWING IS DISTILLATION OF BRAZILIAN PRESS COVERAGE.

2. THE COMMANDER OF FRONTIER BATTALION OF RORAIMA WAS ALLEGEDLY ORDERED TO TOUR THE BRAZIL-GUYANA BORDER TO OBSERVE A REPORTED INCREASED MOVEMENT OF GUYANESE MILITARY FORCES IN THE AREA. THE BORDER WITH GUYANA, ACCORDING TO O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, REMAINS CLOSED AND THERE IS NO ACCESS TO THE KIMBIA REGION WITHOUT SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION FROM GUYANESE AUTHORITIES. ALONG THE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRASIL 02040 091359Z

FRONTIER THE CLIMATE WAS DESCRIBED AS BEING "EXPECTANT"

AND IN BOA VISTA THE POPULATION FELT THAT THERE WAS "SOMETHING IN THE AIR." BRAZILIAN FRONTIER PATROLS HAVE BEEN DOUBLED AND THE PLATOONS STATIONED AT BONFIM AND NORMANDIA WERE RECENTLY REINFORCED. A MILITARY SOURCE OBSERVED THAT THE 24 HOUR PATROLS WERE OF A PREVENTIVE NATURE AND ROUTINE.

3. THE INCREASED USE OF MOTORCYCLES BY THE GUYANESE TO PATROL THEIR SIDE OF THE BOUNDARY AND THE ARRIVAL OF WHAT WERE REPORTEDLY ONE HUNDRED TWENTY "ARMED TROOPS" AT THE LETHEM AIRPORT WHO HID WHEN OBSERVED BY AN AIR TAXI PILOT HAVE BEEN CITED BY THE PRESS AS SIGNS OF EXTRAORDINARY ACTIVITY IN REGION. ALTHOUGH RESIDENTS OF BONFIM WHO DO BUSINESS ON THE GUYANESE SIDE ARE STILL ABLE TO CROSS THE BORDER THERE HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN A CESSATION OF GUYANESE CROSSING INTO BRAZIL. THE JORNAL DO BRASIL NOTED THAT USUALLY LARGE NUMBERS OF GUYANESE COME TO BOA VISTA AT CARNIVAL BUT THIS YEAR THEY DID NOT APPEAR.

4. TWO BRAZILIAN COUPLES SIGHTSEEING ON THE GUYANA SIDE IN LETHEM WERE DETAINED FOR FIVE HOURS BY THE POLICE AND HAD THEIR FILM AND CAMERA CONFISCATED. ONE OF THE MEN WAS A BRAZILIAN ARMY OFFICER ASSIGNED TO THE FRONTIER BATTALION. ON FEBRUARY 28 A BRAZILIAN JOURNALIST WAS ALSO DETAINED AT LETHEM. A BRAZILIAN ARMY SOURCE IN MANAUS EXPLAINED THAT ALL FOREIGNERS ARRIVING IN LETHEM CARRYING CAMERAS AND TAKING PHOTOS OF THE CITY ARE ROUTINELY BEING DETAINED AND QUESTIONED.

5. BOTH O ESTADO AND JORNAL DO BRASIL REPORT THAT BRAZILIAN BUSH PILOTS HAVE OBSERVED IN THE RAPUNUNI LETHEM AREA 63 KILOMETERS FROM THE FRONTIER A LARGE RADIO BEACON WITH A LANDING STRIP BESIDE IT. INDIANS AND MESTICO TRAVELERS THROUGH THE REGION RELATE THAT IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS TWO HOUSES HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED AT THE SITE, ONE WITH A ROUND ROOF WHICH O ESTADO SPECULATES COULD BE USED FOR A RADAR STATION. JORNAL DO BRASIL BELIEVED THE STATION IS BEING USED FOR FLIGHT ORIENTATION SINCE IT FUNCTIONS NON-STOP BUT WONDERS WHY LOCATE THE STATION IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRASIL 02040 091359Z

AN AREA WHERE THERE ARE NO REGULARLY SCHEDULED AIR ROUTES AND COMPLETELY ISOLATED.

6. THE INTENSIFICATION OF SOCIALIST PROPAGANDA IN THE GUYANESE FRONTIER CITIES, OBSERVED THE JORNAL DO BRASIL, DOES NOT REACH THE MAJORITY OF BRAZILIANS LIVING IN THE AREA SINCE IT IS WRITTEN IN ENGLISH. BUT, THE JOURNAL OPINED, THE MESTICO POPULATION, PRODUCTS OF BRAZILIAN OR

GUYANESE WHITE FATHERS IN HINDU, INDIAN OR CHINESE MATES, SOME OF WHOM UNDERSTAND A LITTLE ENGLISH ARE AFFECTED BY THE PROPAGANDA AND ARE BEGINING TO BELIEVE THE BURNHAM REGIME CAN RAISE THEM FROM POVERTY AND IGNORANCE. THE PRESS ALSO NOTED THAT GUYANESE YOUTHS ARE BEING RECRUITED FOR STUDY IN CUBA. ONE GROUP OF 20, REPORTED O ESTADO, IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE GOOD HOPE, NEAR THE BRAZILIAN BORDER, FOR CUBA NEXT SUNDAY.

7. JORNAL DO BRASIL IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "HOSTILE FRONTIER" REVIEWED THE CURRENT STATE OF CASTROITE CUBA'S INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, THE POLITICAL RESTLESSNESS THAT HAS EXISTED IN GUYANA SINCE INDEPENDENCE AND ITS POLITICAL DIRECTION UNDER BURNHAM. THE EDITORIAL BELIEVED IT POSSIBLE THE GOG IS MILITARILY REINFORCING THE FRONTIER, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREA CLAIMED BY VENEZUELA, NOT FOR STRATEGIC REASONS BUT TO PROTECT ITS NATIONAL TERRITORY. ACCORDING TO THE JORNAL, REASONS FOR BRAZILIAN PREOCCUPATIONS ARE THE WEAKNESS OF INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONS IN GUYANA, THE RECEIPT OF SOVIET ARMS AND NOW THE PRESENCE OF "FOREIGN ADVISORS." IT IS NOT UNLIKELY, WARNED THE ARTICLE, THAT THE "INTERVENTIONISTS" (CUBANS) SEEK TO REPEAT ON THIS CONTINENT THE TRIUMPH OF ITS AFRICAN OPERATION. THE CORREIO BRAZILIENSE EDITORIAL GENERALLY FOLLOWED THE SAME OBSERVATIONS ON THE RACIAL AND POLITICAL BACKGROUND OF GUYANA. ALTHOUGH NOT FLATLY DISCOUNTING THE EXISTENCE OF FOREIGN MILITARY INSTRUCTORS IN GUYANA THE EDITORIAL NOTED THAT IF TRUE THE PRESENCE OF CUBANS AND SOVIET ARMS AND TECHNICIANS COULD CHANGE GUYANA INTO A MILITARY THREAT TO ITS NEIGHBORS. THE CORREIO ADVOCATED, ABOVE ALL, APPROACHING THE SITUATION WITH EXTREME CAUTION. O ESTADO POINTED OUT IN AN EDITORIAL THAT GUYANA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STRATEGIC PREOCCUPATION AMONG ITS NEIGHBORS, FEARING THAT THE STRUGGLE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BRASIL 02040 091359Z

BETWEEN THE JAGAN-BURNHAM ADHERENTS WOULD RESULT IN THE NATION BECOMING THE FOCAL POINT FOR CASTROISM AND SOVIET EXPANSIONISM. THE SITUATION IN GUYANA IS DELICATED NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF CUBAN INTERVENTION BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF VENEZUELAN IRREDENTIST CLAIMS FOR THE TERRITORY CEDED TO BRITISH GUINA IN 1899. BRAZIL, O ESTADO REPORTED, IS AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN GUYANA BECAUSE CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA AND THE THREAT OF INTERVENTION IN PANAMA AND PUERTO RICO WOULD REQUIRE BRAZIL, WHETHER IT WANTED TO OR NOT, TO "ADOPT THE PREOCCUPATIONS WHICH THE NATIONAL INTEREST DETERMINE". THE JOURNAL DECLARED THAT BRAZIL BY EDUCATION AND NATURE IS NOT DISPOSED TO BECOME INVOLVED IN QUESTIONS OUTSIDE OF ITS BORDERS BUT THE ARTICLE SUGGESTED THAT BRAZIL STILL MUST CONSIDER WHAT MIGHT OCCUR IF THE TERRITORIAL STATUS QUO

OR POLITICS OF THIS NEIGHBORING REGION IN SOUTH AMERICA  
IS SIGNIFICANTLY MODIFIED.  
CRIMMINS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY TRAINING, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASES, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BRASIL02040  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760089-0034  
**From:** BRASILIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760381/aaaactsy.tel  
**Line Count:** 172  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BRASILIA 1797  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 AUG 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 AUG 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** THE BRAZILIAN PRESS AND THE GUYANA RUMORS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BR, GY, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006